WASHTENAW COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY - Founded December 17, 1857

APRIL 1988

WASHTENAW IMPRESSIONS

FIEGEL, BRAUN FAMILY ITEMS GIVEN WCHS

Long before the pop music groups of today, there was a guitar club in Ann Arbor in the 1890's.

Albert Fiegel, an Ann Arbor clothier for more than 50 years, was a member. His guitar has been given to WCHS along with some vintage women's clothing and photographs by his daughter, Frieda, who is Mrs, Jules Eder of Grand Rapids.

Items include a black silk dress and coat with a photo of the owner wearing it, photo of her husband, a small bonnet hat and a velvet cape.

Mr. Fiegel started working in the clothing business in 1891 at age 18. He established Fiegel's clothing store in 1920 and sold it to associates in 1943 upon retirement. He died ten years later. Fiegel's Men's and Boy's Wear is still in business on Main Street.

The dress and coat belonged to his sister, Lydia Katherine Fiegel, who married Enoch Dieterle.

The hat belonged to Anna Marie Eberhardt (1814-1895) who married Johannes Braun in 1839. Both were born in Germany and came to this country in the 1830s.

The cape belonged to their daughter, Catherine Braun, (1842-1935) who married John Michael Stein. She was Mrs. Fiegel's mother.

LUMBERJACK FEATS, SPRING FEST ON TAP

Cobblestone Farm spring festival will be 1-4 p.m. Saturday, May 7, at 2781 Packard Road, with house tours, crafts displays, some new old pictures and singing by the Slauson Junior High choir.

For children there will be baby chicks, ducks and bunnies and they can make a gift for mother.

Sunday, April 17, there will be a lumberjack festival and antique bike exhibit. Period biking 10:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Lumberjack competition 1-3 p.m.

Michael Gross, contractor for the barn under construction at the farm, will show old hand construction tools.

AUTHOR JONATHAN MARWIL TO TALK ON 'ANN ARBOR HISTORY THROUGH IMAGES AS WELL AS WORDS'

Jonathan Marwil will speak on "A History of Ann Arbor: History through Images as Well as Words" at 2 p.m. Sunday, April 17, at the WCHS meeting at Bentley Library, 1150 Beal on the UM North Campus near Veterans Hospital.

Readers of Marwil's recent book, *A History of Ann Arbor,* note that there are no captions under the pictures and illustrations. This was done on purpose and the author will discuss why.

A professional historian, writer, editor and teacher, Marwil earned a Ph. D. in history from the University of Michigan. He has lived in Ann Arbor 20 years.

He is also the author of *The Trials of Counsel: Francis Bacon in 1621* and *Frederic Manning: An Unfinished Life.* The latter is to be published in mid-April.

He is currently working on another book on the theme of how contemporaries write their own history.

His Ann Arbor history was published by the *The Ann Arbor Observer* and drew early praise from President Gerald Ford, John Dann, director of the Clements Historical Library, and Robert M. Warner, UM dean of the School of Information and Library Studies. Dr. Warner is former Archivist of the United States.

The author invites anyone who has his book to bring it to follow along. There will be copies for sale and he will autograph books.

CAROL FREEMAN, DIXBORO HISTORIAN, WILL TALK AT WCHS POTLUCK ANNUAL MEETING MAY 4

The Washtenaw County Historical Society annual meeting will begin with potluck dinner at 6 p.m. Wednesday, May 4, in the Dixboro United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall.

Carol Freeman, author of *Of Dixboro: Lest We Forget*, will talk about the history of Dixboro. Musical entertainment is also planned.

Besides election of officers, the membership will be asked to vote on a proposed increase in membership dues for 1989 to better meet expenses.

Proposed dues are individual, $10 (now $8); couple, $18 ($15); senior individual, $8 ($6); senior couple, $14 ($11) and student, $5 ($2).

Those attending are asked to bring their own table service and a dish to pass serving 8 to 10 persons. Coffee and tea will be furnished. The church is at 5221 Church Road, one block noth of Plymouth Road in Dixboro.

Please mark your calendar. There will not be another *Impressions* before the meeting.

KEMPF GARDEN PARTY, VICTORIAN TEA MAY 1

A garden party and Victorian tea will be held 1-4 p.m. Sunday, May 1, at Kempf House, 312 South Division. Refurbishing of two rooms is expected to be complete and the Questers group will present some antique plates to Kempf House that day.

The house will be open 1-4 p.m. for tours Saturday, April 30, and also Sundays through May, beginning April 10. Admission, 50 cents except the garden party is $1.

The sitting room (with organ) is being restored to 1880-90, the library to 1860 with appropriate wallpaper and paint.

Historic preservation awards will be presented 4-6 p.m. Sunday, May 15, at Kempf House during Preservation Week.

TO TOUR FORT WAYNE

Plans are being made for an annual bus tour to Detroit's old Fort Wayne on Saturday, June 11. Details later.

DOWN ON THE FARM

POLE SHEDS, AUTOMATIC FEEDERS REPLACE RED BARNS

In India American agriculture has been held up as a paradigm of success. Villagers wondered at a place where one farmer may have 5,000 chickens or 50 acres of land.

But as you know, American farmers have gotten bigger and bigger and, at this time, we are in the process of agrarian transformation to a much larger corporate scale of agriculture in this country, Professor Hemalata Dandekar told the March WCHS audience.

Professor Dandekar and her students in the UM College of Architecture and Urban Plannig are researching where farming is now and what they can do about it if they don't like what is happening to farming, farm structures and small family farms.

"Most of what I'm going to show you (in slides) really harks back to the earlier period in Michigan agriculture.

"The typical farm with its outbuildings conveys an order and meaning that I think is disappearing from the Michigan countryside.

"For 150 years the distinctive and proud silhouette of the Michigan farmscape has reflected the generosity of the land and the industrious nature of the people who inhabited it.

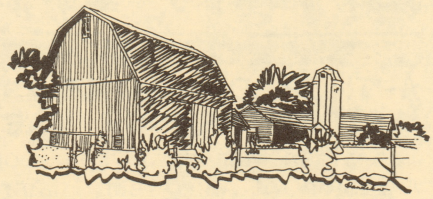
"Now, as you know, most of the aging farm structures are slowly sagging and toppling over on farmsteads throughout our county and state. Periodically, someone wants to buy the wood for lumber or siding.

"Michigan farms and farmers have been the backbone of the state's earlier agrarian economy. They are now under duress. Time and progress appears to be diminishing their niche in society.

"Taxes are going up. Crop prices are going down because of increased prouction and the spread of cities is making farmers' survival more problematic."

Showing a picture of an unusual gothic barn on Island Lake Road, she noted that it had fallen down in recent months. It was built before the Civil War.

"There's a character about a barn. Its a very immediate response to the dictum that form should follow function in architecture. The building represents what is grown on the land and what needs to be sheltered.



Barn pictures in this article and one in the March issue were drawn by Professor Dandekar.

"In our study of the Michigan farm we found there were about five types of farms and farm buildings to be traced over time:

1. Subsistence cultivation, local markets (1818-1865),

2. Scientific farming, regional markets open up (1865-1900),

3. Specialized farming, regional and national markets (1900-1945),

4. Specialized farming, national and international markets (1945-1975),

5. Corporate farming (1975-present),

"We've been disdaining and trying to ignore the corporate farming mode but I think we have to face the fact that it is on the horizon."

"When you go from hand-hewn lumber to metal pole structures you see a distinct change in the farm building profile."

A Waters Road farm illustrated a farm yard with old style barns of the 19th and early 20th century with added pole barns of the 1950s or so.

"There is very little on the landscape from which we can take a guess at forms of habitation of the original native settlers so we are starting our work from the early settlement period of about 1818 when habitation of Michigan was facilitated by the survey of 1818.

"In addition, the Erie Canal opening meant large populations could move into the southeast part of the state. The Chicago road (Michigan Avenue, US-12) encouraged further settlement.

"There was a land boom in 1836 where about four million acres of land were sold.

"I never understood why the roads were so straight in the country but the survey clearly articulates the way in which the land came to be populated.

"You had each township which was divided up into 36 sections. Each was one mile square and contained 640 acres. It is this pattern which makes it so easy to trace back ownership and land holding in this country.

"We have been unable to find a log house from the first period of subsistence farming in this part of the state. If any of you know of any we would love to kow about it."

She showed a log house built by John Young in Gratiot County. He went there in 1878 or so and bought 40 acres of land from a Detroit land speculator, she said. Young cleared the land and started cultivating part of it.

"Young was Pennsylvania Dutch or German in origin. He began to try to make a living on the 40 acres with his wife, Sarah.

"It was a subsistence farm. They would raise chickens. A little bit of cream would be sold. They had a couple of cows and most important was their horse.

"At this time it was very common to share labor in harvesting, at barn-raisings and so on.

"John Young probably built the log house with his friends, the Oltmans and the Jewells. These people moved together as a group and established a community in cooperation with each other.

"The log house is a little different from the log cabin. The log cabin is seen as a very temporary structure after which the family would build a frame house and later a brick house or larger, more elaborate frame house.

"The log house was often a permanent home for quite a few years. Young occupied this house until he died in the 1940s. Up to that point they didn't have any electricity or running water.

"When I showed these pictures to a school of architecture in Bombay, they couldn't believe that there were people in the rich country of America who didn't have electricity until the 1950s.

At the back of John Young's house, he added a frame kitchen and tool room. In addition he might have built a small barn and still later he might have built the gambrel-roof barn that still exists

on the property. (Farmers often call a gambrel roof a hip roof.)

An interior view of the Young house showed mounted deer heads in the living room. In order to augment his subsistence food cultivation for his family, he would take the train up to northern Michigan once a year and kill a couple of deer and maybe a few rabbits.

He also would fish in the Maple River a mile north of his house.

"Its a lot of hard work carrying on subsistence farming. Sarah's face was beginning to show the stresses of it. She was 16 years younger than her husband and she preceded him in death by 40 years. Who did the hard work in the pioneer family?"

The Youngs had two daughters, Goldie and Ida, who attended a one-room school. A picture showed an itinerant peddler who came to the Youngs to sell cloth and various things. In it Goldie had a large hat on her head.

"We have peddlers like this in my village in India."

After John Young died, his children left the property and sold it. The house, in disrepair, was vandalized.

She showed a barn made of hardwood lumber and field stones from the land on the Haab homestead on Haab Road in Freedom township. It belonged to the granduncle of Oscar Haab who owned the restaurant in Ypsilanti, she said.

The Haab barn is very nicely mortised and tenoned, the way they put buildings together before milled lumber and standardized nails. The old barns were put together with very simple tools.

To the right of the main barn is the carriage house, she noted. The horse stalls were in the basement, the carriage on the main floor and the hay in the second floor.

The house on the Haab homestead was built in 1850 by Mr. Raab's great-great grandfather who came to the U.S. in 1848. The house has two frame additions on the back.

The Raab farm has all the ancillary structures that you expect in the second and third category of farms—chicken coop, smoke house, silo, old gable roof barn, newer gambrel roof barn from around the turn of the century. The older barn had been moved about 60 yards down the hill.

At another centennial farm on Chelsea-Dexer Road they don't farm the land anymore because the owners are getting on in years and there's nobody to take over.

"That's something you see consistently. The people who were living off the land really love it but their children have other jobs now.

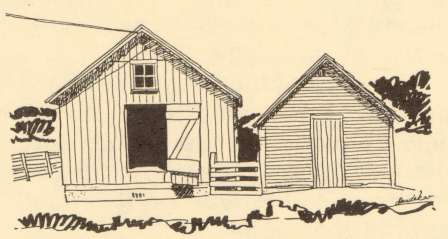
Next came the scientization of agriculture. She showed a shot of a semi-circular chicken motel with separate compartments for different breeds, each with its own yard, from a book about structures needed for scientific farming.

Innovations like the hay hook and the silo were sighificant. The silo allowed Michigan agriculture to sustain itself as the railroad started knitting the land together.

"We couldn't compete with the prairie states in wheat and grain we were growing before. The silo allowed a shift to dairying. Silos were innovated around 1875. In the early 1900s they were proliferating in this part of the world. Wisconsin had the most, 100,000 by 1924. Michigan was third with 49,000.

She had pictures of an early stone silo in the county and several others of various materials—wood, tile, concrete, concrete block.

"Of course the apex of silos are those blue Harvestore silos which are extremely expensive. When you see one on a farmstead you know that farmer is doing pretty well.



"Silos are surprisingly stable. They sometimes remain on the landscape after other buildings are gone.

"Once you get beyond the period of the hand-hewn barn, you get pattern books of barns. You can take the book and construct a barn like ranch house patterns you can get today.

The Crawford homestead near Springport in Jackson county illustrated evolution of farm structures. They found a hog house behind the garden which must have been the original log cabin because the base of it is hand hewn logs.

Crawfords moved the original frame house across the road and built a large Victorian brick house. So you can see three stages - the log cabin, traces of the frame house and the Victorian structure.

The top deck of the carriage house was their major barn. Then they built a big barn and converted the first to a carriage house.

The big barn is a typical Michigan barn from this area, patterned after the German bank barn, where you cut into a hillside. The hillside protects from cold north winds and you can drive the thresher up the bank into the second floor.

They usually try to face the barn to the south so the animals can get out into the barn yard on the warmer side.

"I didn't know what a hay mow (editor's note: rhymes with meow) was, but I'm learning."

She thinks the bigger barn was made by a Swedish boat builder. The windows are meticulously lined up. "That's not always usual in structures like this."

"A lot of architectural historians tend to look at farm houses but the farm spirit comes through in the farm architecture because it is an immediate response to need.

No paint was used on the early barns in the Dutch area of Michigan, she said. They claimed use of thoroughly seasoned logs made them hold up well.

The barns were lower, squarer and the long gable roof line went almost to the ground. Later they went to gambrel roof barns and paint. "The embellishment is just the way they paint the door or something."

Her charts on the number of Michigan farms showed a curve from more than 50,000 in 1860 to a high of more than 200,000 in 1900 with gradual decrease until 1960 when there were about 120,000 down to 60-some thousand in 1985.

The average size pre-1860 farm of more than 160 acres shrunk to a little over 80 acres in 1900 and grew to near 200 acres in 1985.

After looking at new pole barn structures she has "become convinced that they are sort of attractive too and perhaps someting

should be said about preserving them."

To anyone interested in sustaining farming as a family occupation she recommended Curtis Stadtfeld's book, *To The Land and Back.*

In the foreword by Rene Dubos he says most of the scientists in America came off the farm, she said. "Perhaps a problem solving attitude and ethic are fostered when you live close to the land."

She concluded her presentation with slides of rural scenes accompanied by a farm song written and played by Jay Stielstra, local song writer.

Two of Professor Dandekar's students, Kevin Riorden and Maureen Murphy, discussed scientization of farming and corporate farming.

"The year 1900 was a benchmark - a period when agriculture became internationalized. The small multi-use farm would slowly die out from 1900 forward, Riorden said.

Several forces have acted to make American farms more specialized and to develop the corporate farm, he said.

"One of the main forces was education. Agriculture has been treated as a science for only about 100 years, and only then has it been treated as a subject suitable for study.

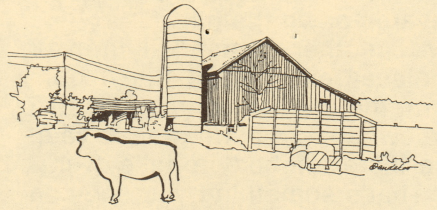
"One hundred years ago, education consisted basically of working on the college farm. You can still see the college farm at Michigan State University.

"There was a great debate 100 years ago concerning what agricultural education should involve. Agricultural education was very classically oriented. They studied Greek and Latin and mathematics. They didn't study anything that had to do with real life farming.

"Farmers of the time wanted the students to learn natural and social sciences.

"Mechanization was another main impetus toward specialization. One hundred years ago you had the horse and that was about it. The first gasoline driven tractor was introduced in 1912. From that time period on the change was irreversible.

"Once a farmer invested in a tractor, and a tractor might cost as much as a three-horse team, its captal cost would be offset within



two years after purchase by lower recurrent cost of operating the tractor.

"Once international markets developed for American grain and produce in the 1900s, the tractor met a need for swift production of food.

"I found out from my research that with a two-horse team you could basically farm 65 acres, with one horse you could do 35 acres but with a tractor you could do four to five times that much.

"This had immediate meaning to the structure of farm buildings. Buildings no longer took into account the horse. They tended to take their form from the tractor, the combine and the other mechanized equipment that went into them.

"However, by 1939, only half the farms in America had tractors. We still relied on horses as a main power source on American farms until World War II.

"With World War II there was an immediate change in American agriculture because there was an accumulation of capital during the war and the price of grain soared drastically.

"Once the war was over, and with the introduction of the Marshall Plan, it became immediately possible for farmers to specialize -it was attractive to them.

"Nine out of ten American farms did not have electricity before 1935. Two out of three did not have phones before 1949. So life on American farms was pretty rough up until the 1950s.

"The development of roads and transport networks allowed farmers to reach larger markets.

"Once specialization took hold, corporate farming was the next logical step.

"Land use patterns, mechanization, technological change, education, agricultural engineering and economics - all these factors worked together to shape the American farm of the last 50 years and the buildings on it."

In a typical pre-specialized, pre-corporate Ann Arbor-Saline area farm, the buildings are very vertical, he noted. Before the introduction of the silo, feed was stored at higher levels and fed down to the animals kept in the basement of the German three-story barn.

The Burmeister farm near Saline illustrated new horizontal buildings in contrast with older vertical ones. Newer buildings are metal or concrete, no longer timber.

They have a car barn-workshop, a prefabricated metal cattle barn, cast-in-place concrete silos, only about ten years old, a concrete block milking parlor.

Grain hoppers and silos operate mechanically. Feeding of the cattle and the mixing of their feed is controlled by a small computer in the cattle barn.

There is an original basement barn with ramp on the north, an old stone milk house and an old corncrib no longer used. One side of a wooden barn has been re-sided in metal.

"Concrete blocks became very common on Michigan farms in the 1920s and '30s because they were economical. They are still used in milking parlors for hygienic reasons because they are easier to clean.

"The pole barn, introduced to American agriculture in the 1950s, has antecedents in various structures of Scandinavian origin."

"Burmeisters specialized as dairy farmers after World War II. By 1945 they made the critical decision to stop multi-use farming. They are very prosperous farmers and will eventually become a corporate farm. They already have 500 acres of land."

"When I think of corporate farms I always thought of big scientific looking buildings you see on the expressway," Maureen Murphy said, "however, that's not what corporate farming is today.

"In Washtenaw county in 1982 there were 1,347 farms, approximately two percent of the farms in Michigan. The land of the county is 49 percent agricultural while only 30 percent of Michigan land is agricultural.

"Farm land value dropped about ten percent in the last three years in the county. However this is a small amount compared to drops in the rest of the country.

"Michigan farmers have not suffered as badly as those in other states because of all the diversified farm operations and because Michigan has a higher population base that a lot of other states.

"Washtenaw county had 23 corporate farms in 1982. The Braun farm on Whitmore Lake Road, once a historical farm, is now turned into a corporate farm.

"The corporation is now used as a financial management tool for several reasons - pooling capital, unlimited life, avoiding inheritance taxes, unlimited financial flexibility and tax benefits.

"Families and groups of families can form corporations so what you might think is a family farm, may indeed be a corporation."

In answer to a question, Professor Dandekar said about 1.1 percent of the 3.5 million U.S. farms had at least $100,000 in sales in the early 1960s, according to the *New York Times.*

By 1982, 1.2 percent of U.S. farmers had sales grossing more than $500,000. Three years later the total number of farms had declined to 2.2 million and the top 1.2 percent produced nearly a third of total farm sales, the *Times* said.

BOILED WOLF ANYONE?

TRIALS OF LIFE IN MICHIGAN TERRITORY, 1832

By Robert E. Miller

(Bob Miller, WCHS treasurer, has some early Washtenaw roots. Here he shares some reminiscences of pioneer life by some of his antecedents.)

During the early 1830s many families left New York State and emigrated to Michigan Territory. Of these were several sons of Jonathon Mills, my great-great grandfather.

The following are excerpts from the reminiscences of one of his grandsons, Warren Heman Mills, as recorded in 1889. Material is also included from reminiscences of Warren Heman's twin brother, Hiram Wallace Mills, as recorded in 1890 by Hiram's daughter, Pauline Mills Murrah.

"I was born in the town of Manlius, New York on the 17th of April, 1828, on the southern bank of the Erie Canal. I was one of the second pair of twin boys.

"My father, John Mills, owned a farm of about fifty acres. His education was almost totally neglected, for he was the sole support for himself and his ten brothers and sisters due to the death of his father when he was still young.

"My mother was Elizabeth Annabil, who was a resident of about the same locality in New York State as my father. Her father was Ebenezer Annabil, who fought in the Revolutionary War as both a sailor and soldier, eventually being promoted to the rank of colonel."

(Editor's Note: Ebenezer Annabil, one of a number of Revolutionary soldiers who came to Washtenaw long after the war, is buried in Bridgewater Center Cemetery at Clinton and Braun Roads.)

"In 1832 when I was four years old my father sold his farm. Since the farm was on the bank of the canal all that was necessary to begin our journey was to hail one of the packets that ran between Albany and Buffalo, load our effects, including among other things two horses and a wagon, and take passage for Buffalo.

"From Buffalo we took a lake steamer to Detroit. Father was offered one of the French farms that had, as was the custom, a small frontage on the river and ran back from two to three miles. The price asked was a thousand dollars which, if he had taken the offer, would have made him and his descendants very wealthy.

"At Detroit I saw my mother cry for the first time in my recollection. Farther went off and left her standing on the wharf with four little children. He was gone until late in the afternoon, attending to some business and there she stayed all day, the victim of the jeers of the vulgar populace. Finally he returned. The team was hitched up, our property loaded in, and the first day on the road we drove as far as Dearborn, about ten miles west of Detroit, where we stopped at Conrad Ten Eyck's Hotel.

"Father drove up and asked Conrad if he could stop for the night. The latter, a humorous character, called out to his wife within, 'Wife is there any of that boiled wolf left?'

"Mother, as I remember, took it seriously and besought Father to drive on for she was sure did not want any wolf. Father assured her, however, we should have good accommodations.

"Next day the journey led us through a swamp where many teams were compelled to wait for two or three days on account of the bad conditions of the roads, but Father had a good team and we suceeded in pushing on ten miles that day.

"After several days journey, fraught with danger, both from Indians and wild beasts, we came at last to an abandoned log house or shanty on the south of the Raisin River in Washtenaw County where are now the Sharon Plains.

"Soon after our arrival at this place, Father went away to pay for the land he intended to take up. At that time there were no homestead of pre-emption laws and one person could take up as much land as he was able to pay for at $1.25 an acre.

"Father determined to pay for a small tract of 160 acres which surrounded the spot where the shanty was located.

"During his absence the following incident occurred. One night after my mother had put all her children to bed on the hard floor, she felt something crawling in the bed, and upon touching it, found it to be cold.

"When she lit a candle to investigate, she found it to be a huge Massasauga rattlesnake. Without wakening the children she attracted the attention of the reptile until it crawled some distance from the sleeping babies.

"She then killed the snake by striking it with the long poker used to poke up logs in those days of huge open fireplaces. On Father's return he built himself a log house on his new farm and started to clear it up.

"Immigration was going on in Michigan very rapidly at this time. Teams and wagons were starting from Detroit and boldly plunging into virgin forests where the hardy pioneers struggled to reclaim the swamps and woods from the savage beasts and Indians.

To be continued.

WASHTENAW COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP

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HOW TO JOIN WCHS

Send name, address and phone number with check or money order payable to Washtenaw County Historical Society to Pauline Walters, 2200 Fuller Road, B-1202, Ann Arbor, MI 48105. Information: 663-2379 evenings/weekends.

Annual dues are $8 for individuals, $15 a couple. Senior individual (60) dues are $6, or $11 a senior couple. Sustaining dues are $50, commercial $25 and student $2. Only one of a couple need be 60 to qualify for senior membership status.

MILAN ELECTS HALE

Warren Hale was recently elected president of Milan Historical Society, Ken Baumann, vice-president, Bonnie Jurgensen, secretary, and Mary Sanford, treasurer.

Board members are Judy Mulder (program co-ordinator), Gary Mayher, Leonard Garlick and Tom King. Lorene Burger who stepped down after 12 or so years as secretary will continue to help with special projects.

SALEM RE-ELECTS SLATE

Salem Historical Society re-elected its officers at the anual meeting March 24. They are James Melosh, president, Irene Lyke, vice-president, Vicky Bragg, secretary, and Carla Pariseau, treasurer.

OLD HOUSE CLINICS: PAINT COLORS, PORCHES

The Ann Arbor Area Preservation Alliance old house clinics coming up are "Paint Colors," April 10, "Windows," May 15, and "Porches and Exterior Trim," June 12.

All are at 2 p.m. Sundays at Leslie Science Center, 1831 Traver Road. Attendance limited, cost $3. Questions? Call 665-2112.

Gene Hopkins of Architects Four and UM College of Architecture will discuss paint. Pat Owen, housewright and restoration artisan, will do May and June programs. He served an aprenticeship with the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

GSWC TO HEAR ABOUT LUTHERAN ROOTS

Robert H. Schapler, church archivist in Ann Arbor, will talk on "Lutheran Roots in Michigan" at the Genealogy Society meeting at 1:30 p.m. Sunday, April 24, at Washtenaw Community College in Lecture Room II, Liberal Arts and Science Building. Beginners class follows.

Ronald A. Bremer of Genealogical Magazine Digest, Inc., of Salt Lake City will speak at 7 p.m. Friday, May 20, in the same hall on "The World of Genealogy."

The annual meeting and election of officers will be at 1:30 p.m. Sunday, May 22, at WCC. Lucille Couzynse, chairperson of the speaker's committee of the Michigan Genealogical Council, will speak on "Letter Writing and How to Get What You Want."

CHELSEA 1988 OFFICERS

Kathleen Chapman was re-elected president of Chelsea Historical Society for 1988. Hazel Dittmar is vice-president; Glen Wiseman, treasurer; Rose Reinhardt, recording secretary; and Cecil Bernath, corresponding secretary. Marge Hepburn, Dave Pastor and Angie Smith are on the board.

WANTED: PROBATE JUDGES

Probate Judge John N. Kirkendall says that Washtenaw County has had a long list of probate judges and he is trying to find pictures of all of them to hang in his court room. He has already found the 20th century judges. His office phone is 994-2476.

HISTORICAL HAPPENINGS INVOLVE: MUSEUM PANEL, KITCHEN BAND, VICTORIAN DECOR, MAPS, OLD SCHOOL DAYS

Chelsea Historical Society: Local quilt show 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Saturday and noon - 4 p.m. Sunday, May 21 - 22 at train depot if building restoration work allows or, if not, the fairground.

Ribbons will be awarded on basis of vistor votes to the best antique quilt, the best modern one and overall best of show. a hand-quilted new maroon and beige sampler quilt will be raffled.

Dan Maroney has given $4,500 to the Society in memory of his parents, Paul and Roxie Maroney, longtime Chelseaites. They plan to use $1,500 for a word processor and hold the rest for a suitable use.

The Ralph Oesterle memorial fund was used to buy four display cases from the former Edwards Jewelry store in Ann Arbor.

The community received a $30,000 matching grant from the Michigan Equity Program to restore the depot for a community building and historical society headquarters.

The Chelsea Kitchen Band will play at the May meeting to be held at Chelsea Methodist Home at a date to be announced.

Dexter Society: Museum, 3443 Inverness, will be open 1 - 4 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays beginning May 6 or by appointment (call 426-2519).

Manchester Society: 7:30 p.m. third Monday at Blacksmith Shop Museum, 324 East Main.

Milan Society: 7:30 p.m. third Wednesday at Hack House, 775 County Street. Cindy Lawson of Great Ideas II, Saline branch of a Tecumseh interior decorating firm, will speak on "Victorian Decorating" April 20.

Hack House, 100 years old this year, is being painted inside and out in preparation for celebration.

Northfield Society: Renovation of Dodge House, 44 Barker Road, is underway as a township library and society headquarters. Kiwanis volunteers are doing preliminary work.

NTHS voted a $625 cash donation toward a new front door and pledged half the profits from sale of the remaining 200 copies of *Looking Back, The History of Northfield Township and the Whitmore Lake Area.*

The next community fund raiser will be a euchre tournament at noon Sunday, April 17, at the Fire Hall.

Pittsfield Society: 2 p.m. first Sunday at township hall, State and Ellsworth Roads.

Salem Society: 7:30 p.m. fourth Thursday at former Congregational Church, 7961 Dickerson Street.

The Society is selling, for $2, a folio of five 11-by-17 inch township historical maps and has begun to publish historical monographs at $1 each.

Maps include the original flawed 1816 survey, one with names of original purchasers, re-survey of 1844 and land owners of 1874 and 1915.

Monographs to date are 'The Railroad Comes To Salem" and "Early Surveys in Salem," both by Donald Ridering and "Salem Township's Other Railroad, 1881-1891," by Karl Gierman.

Saline Society: Former Governor John Swainson of Manchester, chairman of the Michigan Historical Commission, will moderate a panel discussion by representatives of local societies with museums at 7 p.m. Thursday, April 28, in the Saline Presbyterian Church education building, 143 East Michigan.

The subject will be how they got their museums. Representatives invited include Chelsea, Will Connelly; Dexter, Anne Nuttle; Milan,Warren Hale; and Ypsilanti, Doris Milliman.

Webster Society: 7:45 p.m. Monday, May 2, at Webster Community House, Farrell and Webster Church Roads. "Boyhood Webster's Memories" by Paul and Harold Kleinschmidt with exhibits of antique farm machinery.

Ypsilanti Society: Slates, pencil boxes, old textbooks, and one-room school pictures will be part of the old-time school days exhibit at the museum from about mid-April through May to welcome visiting school groups.

Third grade or higher classes may visit the museum, 220 North Huron, free of charge by calling 482-4990 mornings for appointment. It is regularly open to the public 1 - 4 p.m. Friday - Sunday.

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Annual meeting May 4 - see page 1.

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